



NHA NEWS

"Improving Newark's Neighborhoods"

Published by the Newark Housing Authority, Department of Public Information, 500 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

December 2003



May the

joys of the
holidays be with
you...

"And now abideth faith,
hope, charity, these three;
but the greatest of these is
charity." 1st Corinthians
13:13

The season of the harvest and goodwill toward our fellow man once again gives us pause to reflect on the many blessings we have enjoyed throughout the year and the prospect of an even brighter future filled with hope and promise.

Collectively, the NHA family has realized the fruits of its labor because the seeds of progress were planted and nurtured with focused attention and diligence. This year, thanks to the NHA family, the NHA's uncompromising integrity and thrust toward maximizing existing resources has returned optimal gains for our residents and the Newark community.

Because of your dedication, the NHA continues to demonstrate its commitment to embrace the most vulnerable among us—our seniors and children. Throughout the year, the NHA opened its doors and hearts to them, providing health fairs, an immunization campaign, and a variety of educational enrichment and recreational programs and activities. Most recently, the NHA's 13th honorary executive director program brought together seniors from throughout the NHA community to celebrate the achievements of Martha Edwards, the new honorary executive director.

As the Christmas season is upon us, I ask each of you to continue to manifest the generosity of spirit that has been a hallmark of the NHA for many years. As we confront an uncertain future, budget shortfalls, and a greater divide between the haves and have nots, I hope you will extend your hand and share whatever you can to help make the holidays brighter for those less fortunate. Whether it's a loaf of bread, a kind word or even a smile, acts of kindness, no matter how small, will serve as a beacon of light and uplift the hearts and minds of both the giver and the receiver. It is a testament to your good works that, although much remains to be done, we have helped to define the shape and direction of public housing in Newark. Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

HAROLD LUCAS
Executive Director

The NHA/AME Health Awareness Center Celebrates Holiday Season!

The Dr. M. Joan Cousin NHA/AME Health Awareness Center hosted its annual Christmas party for residents at the Rev. Otto E. Kretschmer Homes complex, where the children occupied center stage as they sang Christmas carols, performed skits and presented a musical selection on the saxophone to the delight of their parents and the NHA and the Center staffs. Other program highlights were the distribution of gifts by Santa himself, in the persona of Jimmy Parrillo, Public Information Department, and remarks by NHA Commissioner Gloria L. Cartwright, who helped coordinate the program, with the assistance of Mrs. Loga Odom and staff.



A collaborative effort between the African

Methodist Church, First Episcopal District and the NHA, the Center was established in 1995 to help combat the high incidence of HIV/AIDS in the community. The Center offers several enrichment programs and activities, ranging from an after-school program, vacation bible school, and HIV/AIDS education and outreach.



Howard Beyer (left photo), executive director of the Juvenile Justice Commission, elicits a chuckle from the more than 70 participants who attended the recent anti-gang strategic plan forum for key community leaders, which was held at the NHA's Broad Street offices. Pictured (l. to r.) are NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas, Commissioner Gloria L. Cartwright, Councilman Charles Bell and Senator Ronald Rice. Ron Salahuddin (right photo), director of the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center, shares information on gang behavior with the conferees and characterized the gang problem as an "epidemic war" and warned that all youth, urban and suburban, are susceptible. The forum was sponsored by the NHA and coordinated by the Affirmative Action Department.

A Message From The Executive Director



Recipients of the NHA's 2002 Adopt-A-Child Program

Because of the continued suffering of children in our area and the increase number of needy individuals, I am personally asking the NHA staff to focus on giving to needy families during this holiday season.

We will collect monetary donations to give a minimum of three(3) disadvantaged families a real Christmas, replete

with a decorated Christmas tree, a complete meal with all of the trimmings and, of course, gifts for each member of the household. Of the three families, one will reside in public housing, while the remaining two will be selected from Section 8 and rental housing in the Newark community. You are welcome to recommend a family to benefit from our generosity and kindness by contacting my office.

Similarly, the NHA will continue its tradition of sponsoring the Adopt-A-Child Program and the Adopt-a-Senior Program. The NHA is accepting monetary donations for the purchase of fruit baskets and winter outerwear to help our seniors stay warm. NHA employees who elect to participate in the Adopt-A-Child Program will be given the opportunity to select the name(s) of a participating youngster(s) from Doris McCray-Crank, who is coordinating the NHA effort, to purchase a gift for their adopted child.

As in the past, we hope to brighten the holidays for those who are less fortunate and are confident our goodwill will continue to bring a measure of Christmas cheer to participating children and seniors this year as well.

Thank you all for your generous support!

NHA Honors New Honorary Executive Director

In what has become a fixture on the Newark Housing Authority's (NHA) special events calendar, the NHA recently hosted its 13th honorary executive director program as part of its annual celebration that highlights the contributions that seniors have made to the development of Newark.

As is the custom, NHA officials conferred the honorary executive director title on Martha Edwards, 59, a longtime Newark resident. As a volunteer who devotes many hours of her time to local healthcare projects, Ms. Edwards' example of community service exemplifies the vitality of Newark's seniors and embodies the NHA's interest in fostering positive relations with the community.

Ms. Edwards achieved the designation of honorary executive director for emerging as one of the top contestants in the Newark Citywide Senior Citizens' Fashion Extravaganza, an annual event sponsored by area businesses, city agencies, and community-based organizations for Newark seniors to enjoy the camaraderie of their peers while showcasing their fashions

in an atmosphere of friendly competition. Ms. Edwards not only becomes a member of the NHA's elite family of honorary executive directors, she also joins the ranks of Newark seniors who, based on their placement in the annual competition, have been selected to serve as honorary mayor, honorary municipal council president, and honorary library director.

At the swearing-in ceremony NHA and city officials discharged all the privileges, duties and responsibilities inherent in the top post to Ms. Edwards, who was accompanied by family members, friends, program sponsors, former NHA honorary executive directors, and a cadre of senior citizens, and presented her with a plaque and other accoutrements reflective of her new position. The NHA culminated Ms. Edwards' achievement with a luncheon held in her honor.

Acknowledging that she was overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity and support, Ms. Edwards commented that she would do everything in her power to uphold the trust and confidence placed in her.



Photos (l. to r.): Mr. Lucas and State Senator and Deputy Mayor Ronald Rice (3rd from right), accompanied by Councilwoman Bessie Walker, son of the honoree, Sidney Edwards, and Central Ward Councilman and NHA Affirmative Action Director Charles Bell, present Martha Edwards with a pendant acknowledging her achievement, seniors who shared the occasion with Ms. Edwards, and Betty Crawford, NHA executive director's office, shows the new NHA "chief" the ropes.

Not once, but twice in 2003 and on two consecutive days, Executive Director Harold Lucas was recognized by his peers for his accomplishments in two distinct but disparate areas.

His athletic prowess as a hurdler at West Side High School and participation in and contributions to sports have advanced him into Newark's City League records and, most recently, into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. Lucas was inducted into the organization at its 15th annual dinner, joining a bevy of distinguished individuals who have made their mark in athletics.

Also, Mr. Lucas was presented with the "Man of the Year" award at Grace Reformed Baptist Church's 24th annual appreciation awards/scholarship banquet for his outstanding leadership and noble and humble spirit. Congratulations, Mr. Lucas!



Photos (from top), Harold Lucas gives remarks before accepting the "Man of the Year" award; Mr. Lucas proudly displays his plaque with Reverend Levin B. West, Sr., pastor of Grace West Reformed Baptist Church, Inc.; Newark Mayor Sharpe James and Mr. Lucas; and NHA employees (above: l. to r.), Councilman and Affirmative Action Director Charles Bell, Carl Brinson, and Joe Byrd.



The NHA Begins Massive Community Revitalization Project in Central Ward

"We're so proud of what's happening. This project is going to fill a hole in the Central Ward, and it's not just an NHA project. It's the schools, developers and other partners from the public and private sector working together to make Newark a better city." Harold Lucas, NHA Executive Director

Unlike other construction starts initiated by the Newark Housing Authority (NHA), that which marked the beginning of the NHA's HOPE VI Revitalization Project this past October represents one of the most ambitious and far-reaching efforts the NHA has undertaken to date.

"This is the first time in the city that we're building market rate, rental and public housing, which will add to the numerous capital improvement projects we have planned for the city." Sharpe James, Mayor, City of Newark

When completed, the HOPE VI Project will encompass 700 units of mixed-income housing, a new high school, new landscaped pocket parks, streets and utilities, supportive neighborhood services, and economic development opportunities in the city's Central Ward. The project includes the former Stella Wright Homes and the Scudder Homes and Hill Manor sites.

Shown (right) is a replica of the townhouse design to be featured in the reconfiguration of a 12.73-acre parcel in Newark's Central Ward.





Following the program, Mr. Lucas confers with the developer for the HOPE VI Project, Israel Roizman.

"The reality is that there is a rebirth happening here and everyone should be proud of what they've done to move this project forward." Tim Toohmey, Fannie Mae Foundation

"This is a great milestone for the city of Newark and a golden opportunity for the city to have the leadership of Harold Lucas and Mayor James." Gloria L. Cartwright, NHA Commissioner

"Housing is changing and I'm pleased to be a part of it. I'm grateful to the NHA for helping me raise my family and giving me a better way." Movena Ross, former Stella Wright Homes resident.

"We are proud of the work of the Mayor and Harold Lucas and the NHA, and I'm here to support them. My commitment is to make sure residents in the city take part in projects, in terms of jobs, goods and services." Charles Bell, Central Ward Councilman



NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas gives remarks at the NHA's recent ground-breaking ceremony where federal, state and city officials as well as representatives from the private sector and members of the community gathered to hear the NHA's plans for the site.



The call went out and they responded in kind, descending on the Kretschmer Elderly complex to compete in the NHA's Fifth Annual Pool Tournament in four divisions: young women/disabled; women's senior; young men/disabled; and men's senior. Judging by the turnout of participants and spectators and the caliber of play, the level of interest and enthusiasm among NHA residents has not diminished nor was friendly banter in short supply among the participants who vied for the trophy in their respective category, bragging rights, perhaps, and a wall clock featuring a pool ball motif. Emerging as the tournament winner and the winner in the men's senior division was Girard Bonner (top photo, far left), Stephen Crane Elderly, Allen Williams (left photo, bottom), Stephen Crane Elderly, ousted his opponents to capture the prize in the men's young/disabled category. Della Clemens (top right), Seth Boyden Elderly, was also triumphant in the women's senior division, while Stephen Crane Elderly resident, Leah Wheeler (not shown), won in the young women/disabled group. NHA Commissioner Ida Clark (bottom right, foreground/center) joins NHA residents as spectators at the event, sponsored by the NHA's Department of Family Services, which provided prizes, refreshments, and bus transportation as a service to residents.

NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Zinnerford Smith, Chairman · Ida Clark, Vice Chairperson · Gloria L. Cartwright, Treasurer · Fran Aduabo · Donald Bradley · Lynell Robinson
Harold Lucas, Executive Director